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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

December 11, 1947

For administrative use only

TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News No. 30

Back on the job. It is good to be back on official duty again. The many "good wishes" received from the States during the short stay at the hospital and longer convalescence at home were appreciated. Thanks!

Review of accounts prior to final liquidation. Yesterday State Directors of Extension were advised of the dates in January when a representative of the Federal Extension Service will visit the State to review 1947 farm labor expenditures and check disposition of property purchased with farm labor funds during the entire life of the Emergency program, 1943 to 1947 inclusive. Please take whatever steps may be necessary to have all 1947 farm labor accounts cleared and posted through December 31, 1947 in advance of the visit by the Federal Extension representative. Also, have property inventories brought completely up to date. The 30-day liquidation period is short at best, but farm labor has developed a reputation of getting things done on time.

Just what and how much farm labor property is to be retained for use in regular Extension work depends largely upon the administrative discretion of the State Director. At the time the property disposal plan outlined in EFL Circular 29, revised August 6, 1947, was cleared I assured the Secretary's Office that the State Extension Services would play fair in selecting property to be retained and all things considered would be able to sell the surplus at a more advantageous price than could be obtained through any disposal plan suggested as an alternative. An empty promise? I don't think so!

Swedes or Scots. Minnesota reports two separate sales of housing and messing equipment obtained from the War Department as follows:

<u>Sales No.</u>	<u>Cost price to Extension</u>	<u>Sale price</u>
1	\$1,094.33	\$1,106.45
2	236.68	250.00

Oberlin and Pittman to Federal USES. The Federal USES office is getting two good men who know farm labor. Pittman is scheduled to report for duty with USES on January 1 next and Oberlin 30 days later.

D. A. Tucker, Farm Labor Supervisor in Virginia, advises that he has accepted a position with the Maryland Employment Service.

W. O. Stark, Assistant Farm Labor Supervisor in Kansas, has been appointed by Governor Carlson of that State to head the farm placement activities of the State Employment Service.



At the Amarillo, Texas meeting of the Southern Great Plains Council on January 5-7, 1948, the question of what educational and research activities in the farm labor field should be sponsored by the State Agricultural Colleges will be discussed. Assistant Director "Bill" Williamson will represent the Federal Extension Service at the meeting.

Transfer of Extension Farm Labor Property to USES. The question of transfer without reimbursement of State Extension farm labor property (such as an information station) to the State Employment Service keeps bobbing up. There is no authority to transfer farm labor property to the USES or to any other agency. Public Law 40, 80th Congress, merely provides for ending the Emergency Program and for its liquidation by the Department of Agriculture and State Extension Services. Any State farm labor property desired by the State Employment Service must be sold under the disposal plan outlined in EFL Circular 29 revised, August 6, 1947.

The extent to which State Extension farm labor records and other information is made available to the State Employment Services is a matter for the State Director of Extension to decide and will probably vary greatly from State to State. Because of the nature of the Emergency Farm Labor Program, it is probable that most information relating to its conduct would not be helpful in the conduct of a limited farm placement service. I call attention to absence of authority to turn over extension farm labor records merely because one or two directors are being pressured to supply the State Employment Service with farm labor information of a rather confidential nature.

Laker and Gaylord, area directors for the north central and western states, are spending a few days in the federal office assisting in developing plans for final liquidation.

Carl Davenport, liaison man in the Texas migratory farm labor program, was the guest speaker at the Epsilon Sigma Phi luncheon for the Federal Extension staff here on December 4. For two years Mr. Davenport worked with the Texas Latin-Americans employed in western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming--the Scottsbluff-Torrington sector.

Yours very truly,

*Meredith C. Wilson*

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Deputy Director of Extension  
Farm Labor Program

cc: State supervisors

